

OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

MARCH 2010



5

Westwind
Barn Grand
Re-Opening



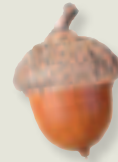
6

The Little
Library that
Could



7

Donor Wall
Completed



11

Caring for
Oak Trees



CRIME BY THE NUMBERS:

(Number of occurrences in Los Altos Hills by year)

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

2007: 16
2008: 26
2009: 14

IDENTITY THEFT FORGERY/FRAUD

2007: 36
2008: 22
2009: 24

AUTO BURGLARY

2007: 2
2008: 4
2009: 3

AUTO THEFT

2007: 3
2008: 1
2009: 1



An Ounce of Prevention



There are few things more disheartening than coming home to find your house ransacked, or your car broken into. While these sorts of events are thankfully still rare in our community, law enforcement officials note an increase in property crimes since the economic downturn. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, which serves Los Altos Hills, says many of these break-ins are "crimes of opportunity," and that there are a number of steps you can take to protect yourself, your property, and your community. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.]

One of the oldest and still most effective crime prevention tools is Neighborhood Watch, a program to organize and network a neighborhood or group of local residents.

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT

Prevent vehicle break-ins

It turns out the most important step in crime prevention is also the simplest—treat your valuables as such. That is, do not to leave purses, computers, wallets, and other valuable items in your vehicle in plain view, even if you plan to be away for only a few moments. This simple precaution is the best antidote to a “smash-and-grab” crime, wherein the perpetrator smashes a window and makes off with the goods. This crime of opportunity takes only seconds, and typically leaves little evidence. If necessary, put the items in the glove compartment or trunk if you are out and cannot take them with you. If parking your car at home, take your valuables inside; do not leave them in the vehicle if you can avoid it.

Prevent residential burglaries

There are a number of precautions you can take to prevent and successfully resolve residential burglaries. Here again, the simplest, common-sense steps are some of the most effective, including not leaving windows and doors unlocked when not at home. The next level of prevention is to place motion sensor lights around the entry and side of your home; alarms and cameras can also be effective criminal deterrents.

It can also be very beneficial in identification and recovery of stolen items to write down the make, model, and serial numbers for various electronic devices in your home. Engraving valuable items with a unique symbol or mark is another good way to identify your valuables should they be stolen. However, be sure not to use your drivers license or Social Security number for this purpose. Finally, you can photograph valuable jewelry or other items that do not have serial numbers or cannot be easily marked.

Neighborhood Watch programs

One of the oldest and still most effective crime prevention tools is Neighborhood Watch, a program to organize



Want Peace of Mind While on Vacation?

The Sheriff's Office has a program that provides for patrol checks of your residence when you are away for an extended period. Sheriff's deputies working in your neighborhood will drive by and patrol check your residence when possible while you are away on vacation. And remember: stop all mail and newspaper delivery while away, or have someone pick it up daily. To participate in the program, call the Sheriff's Office ahead of your vacation at 408-868-6600.

and network a neighborhood or group of local residents. The primary purpose of this program is to promote awareness and communication across the community. This sort of organization leverages the familiarity and knowledge neighbors have about their community, so that if an incident takes place, residents are notified immediately and can be vigilant for unusual activity. Information gleaned from alert neighbors can be an important aid for police in prevention, apprehension, and recovery.

The Sheriff's Office meets with Neighborhood Watch groups to answer

questions and provide information about the program. They will also provide signs indicating areas where Neighborhood Watch is in effect. Remember that property crime suspects tend to look for areas where there is less likelihood of being noticed and caught. Neighborhood Watch was developed specifically to address these issues. To learn more 408-868-6610.

Reducing risk of identity theft

It could happen to you when using an ATM, responding to an e-mail asking for information about your online account, or leaving a new box of your checks in your unlocked mail box. The average victim loses more than \$6,000 and spends about 600 hours negotiating the complex bureaucracies and paperwork. Use locking mailboxes to help prevent mail theft. This will reduce your chance of becoming a victim of identity theft.

A phone call away

If you take some of the measures mentioned in this article, you will be working proactively to reduce the occurrence of crime in your neighborhood—a goal we can all support.

Rest assured, the Sheriff's Office remains very responsive to all calls for service, and you should not hesitate to call if you observe suspicious activity in your neighborhood. In emergencies, dialing 911 will provide an immediate response. For non-emergencies, call 408-299-2311.

Captain Terry Calderone, Division Commander, West Valley Patrol Division, Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County



TO LEARN MORE:

To learn about preventing identity theft visit: www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/fraud/idtheftrev.pdf. To view the most current LAH Crime Report visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Town Sewer Line Construction Progressing

Winter is typically a very slow time for new construction activity in Town because of the weather and the grading moratorium that extends until April 15th. However, you may have noticed an unprecedented amount of new sewer line construction in progress with periodic street closures being a temporary but inconvenient side effect.

In the south end of town there is the West Loyola Sewer Project with approximately 6,700 lineal feet of 8" sewer main. This project on Mora Drive and side streets will service about 52 properties. The project is expected to be completed in March depending on weather. The Eastbrook Avenue Sanitary Sewer Diversion Project also near Mora Drive is about to get underway. Approximately 590 lineal feet of 8" main will be installed. The project will decommission

approximately 1,200 lineal feet of obsolete 6" main.

On the west side of town, there is the Natoma Road Sewer Extension with nearly 5,000' (just under a mile) of 8" main being installed. The project is scheduled for completion sometime in May depending on weather. Wrapping up this healthy list of over \$2.5 million in new sewer infrastructure investment, is almost 1,000 feet of new 8" pipe just installed on Concepcion and Purissima Roads. The construction costs for the aforementioned projects are privately funded by individuals and neighborhoods with the exception of the Eastbrook Avenue Project, which involves some cost sharing with the Town. The Town will assume maintenance responsibility for the new lines after installation. Your patience during all of this work is greatly appreciated and please be assured that City Engineer Richard Chiu

is working closely with sewer project contractors to minimize delays to residents as a result of temporary street closures.

Trail and Open Space Grant

In other public works news, the Town has applied with the Santa Clara Valley Water District for a 2010 Trail and Open Space Grant. The two eligible projects proposed for grant funding include the construction of two bridges over Purissima Creek to improve public access to the O'Keefe Open Space Preserve on O'Keefe Lane. Application for grant funding is also being made for the proposed completion of an off-road pathway route located between Robleda and La Paloma Roads, near Wildcrest and Atherton Ct. This pathway will meander for about 1,000 feet along a small creek within the Adobe Creek Watershed.

Carl Cahill, City Manager



FROM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR

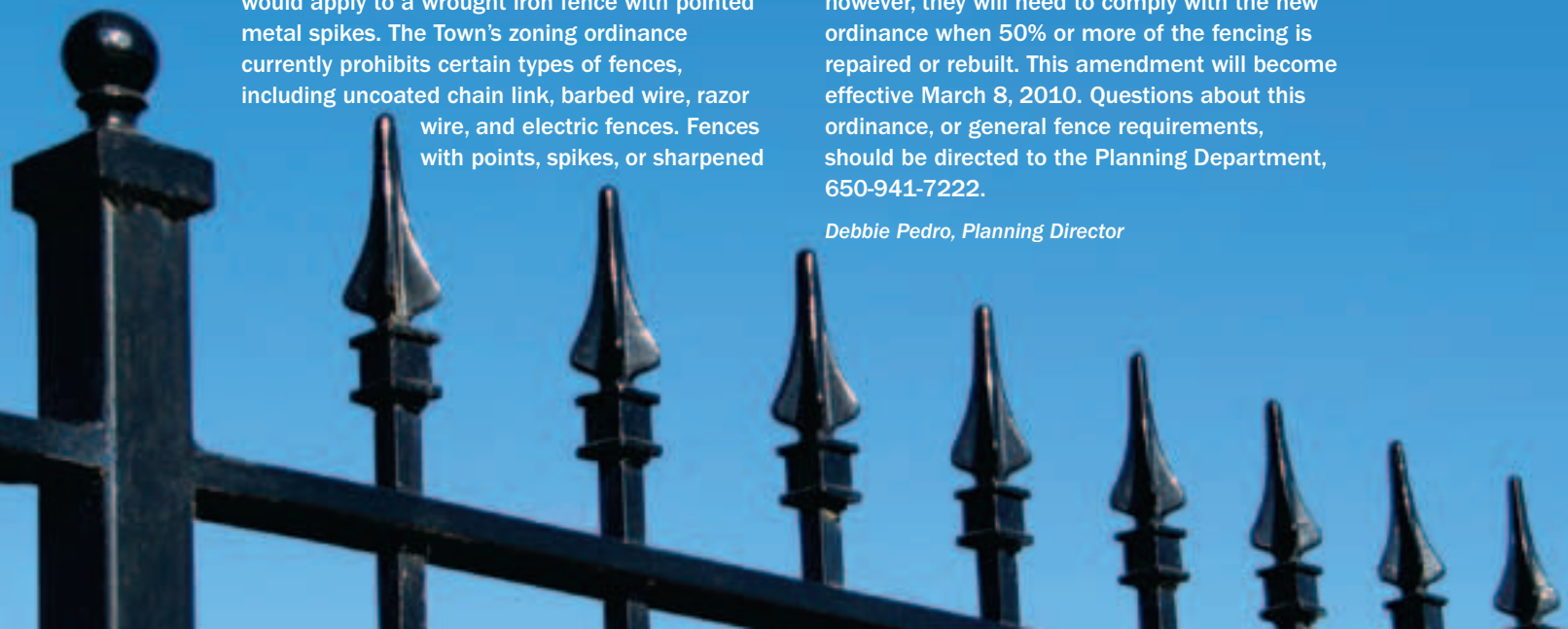
FENCE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Citing safety concerns, the City Council, on February 8, 2010, approved an amendment to the Town's Fence Ordinance which will prohibit the construction of fences with points, spikes, or sharpened edges. For example, this would apply to a wrought iron fence with pointed metal spikes. The Town's zoning ordinance currently prohibits certain types of fences, including uncoated chain link, barbed wire, razor wire, and electric fences. Fences with points, spikes, or sharpened

edges are being added to the list of prohibited fences because they could potentially injure people, pets, or wildlife.

Residents will not need to remove existing fences with points, spikes, or sharpened edges; however, they will need to comply with the new ordinance when 50% or more of the fencing is repaired or rebuilt. This amendment will become effective March 8, 2010. Questions about this ordinance, or general fence requirements, should be directed to the Planning Department, 650-941-7222.

Debbie Pedro, Planning Director





NINTH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS PATHWAYS RUN/WALK

Come join the fun at the ninth annual Los Altos Hills Pathways 5K & 10K Run/Walk and One Mile Kid's Fun Run on Saturday, May 8. The 5K & 10K Run/Walk begins at 9:00 am, followed by a one-mile Kid's Fun Run at 10:30 am. Both events start and finish at Westwind Barn, 27210 Altamont Road.

The scenic trail courses are hilly and follow Los Altos Hills pathways through beautiful Byrne Preserve. These events are open to runners or walkers of any age. Water stations, race numbers, themed T-shirts, unique awards, and snacks will all be provided.

The theme this year is "Run In The Oaks" to celebrate the beautiful oak trees located all over Los Altos Hills. Proceeds benefit the Westwind Barn restoration effort.

Race volunteers are needed for this community event. For further information, or if you are interested in helping to sponsor the race, donate items for the race raffle, or volunteer for registration or water tables, please contact the LAH Parks and Recreation Department at sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov or Race Director Scott Vanderlip at scott@inet-sciences.com or by telephone at 650-948-6455.

Race information and online registration is available on the LAH Pathways Run Event website: www.lahpathways.org



13TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS

TOWN PICNIC



Mark your calendar now for the 13th Annual Town Picnic, to be held on Sunday afternoon June 6, from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, at the new Purissima Park located on Purissima Road at the intersection of Viscaino Road. The Picnic

features lots of games, live entertainment, and other attractions, as well as a delicious barbeque lunch.

Featured attractions this year will include the return of some favorites from past picnics, including a spirited live band, expanded large inflatable attractions, the popular Pirates of Harbor Bay, Classic Car Show, Lionel model trains, volleyball, children's games, pony rides, and various crafts.



Tasty chicken, all-beef hot dogs, and vegetarian meals will be cooked by our terrific Santa Clara County firefighters from Local No. 1165, and served with special firefighters chili, tossed salad, and warm garlic bread. Soft drinks, select beers and wines, and our wildly popular ice cream sundaes will be plentiful.

All Los Altos Hills residents and Town staff are warmly invited to this free event. Our Town hosts the Annual Picnic as the major annual community event for all of our Town's residents. It is organized and produced by the Community Relations Committee, with help from

many Town volunteers. Encourage your LAH friends and neighbors to come along and join the fun. (Please note: Dogs are not permitted on the Little League fields.)



Watch for the picnic flyer with a registration coupon that will be mailed to all Town residents in late April. Advance registration is required by Tuesday, May 25 to allow the correct number of meals to be ordered. Tables, chairs, and many large canopies are provided, so that adverse weather does not cancel the picnic.



Westwind Barn Grand Re-Opening

The Town-owned historic Westwind Barn will celebrate its grand re-opening on Earth Day, April 18. The public is invited to see and hear about the restoration effort during the grand opening ceremony that will precede a show and educational program by the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund.

Construction began last summer with an extensive renovation of the dilapidated outdoor paddocks by the Town Public Works staff. Despite the construction activity, demand for boarding space at Westwind has remained strong. Westwind stayed open during the fall and winter with all paddock and pasture boarding spaces filled. Regularly scheduled public events as well as the year-round riding and 4H handicapped riding programs are continuing uninterrupted.



In addition to the extensive seismic retrofit, which brought Westwind Barn and its foundation up to modern structural standards, the project included upgrades to a number of the building systems to improve operating efficiency and lower costs. For the first time in perhaps 50 years, the Barn was completely emptied and cleaned out. As part of this process, all substandard wood and dry rot was eliminated and the building is now pest free.

A number of improvements were achieved with a low-interest, energy-efficiency loan from the California Energy Commission and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification process was initiated with support from the Packard Foundation. The building got a new roof that, although normal in appearance, is actually a “cool roof,” which substantially lowers summer daytime temperatures in the 10,000-square foot second-story loft. The building’s electrical and water systems were completely redone and brought up to code.

Most, if not all, of the Barn’s energy will come from onsite thermal and photovoltaic solar systems, which means that the building will not have a net PG&E bill. Water consumption is expected to be cut in half. Many other small changes were made to the Barn including improvements to the natural ventilation system, restoring a historic set of double doors, and redoing the rotted floor in the connecting hallways.

All together, the total project cost of \$1.2 million or approximately \$60/sq.ft., represents an incredible bargain for the Town that reflects the current state of the construction economy. Of these costs, over 25% were covered by private donations, grants, sponsorships, low-interest loans, and transfers from other public agencies.

Supporters of Westwind Community Barn Donate \$150,000 for Restoration

Meaningful financial support for the Barn construction project came from Supporters of Westwind Community Barn, an organization formed under the leadership of long-time Town resident Elaine Nelson to raise money for the restoration of this iconic landmark in Los Altos Hills. The organization’s recent \$150,000 donation brings the total grants to the Town of Los Altos Hills to over \$200,000. The bulk of the money was raised by an army of volunteers who worked on three very successful Kentucky Derby Day Events at Maple Leaf Farm; a number of private donors also made notable contributions.

THE Little Library *that* Could



nce upon a time, there was a little library located in the quaint town of Los Altos that could happily serve two neighboring cities — Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. Since it first opened its doors, the little library offered a wide selection of books, magazines, audiobooks, and movies. It was a peaceful, quiet alternative to the noisy, frantic pace of the world. With its neat, orderly rows of books, and comfortable chairs, it beckoned each of its visitors, like the sirens' song, to pick up a book and escape to an exciting world of wonder and imagination.

Offering this literary respite hasn't always been easy for this little library. In 1978, voters passed Proposition 13 — perhaps as a result of the machinations of the Big Bad Wolf — that slashed the library's income (derived from property taxes) by 65%. Fortunately, the residents rallied around their beloved little library and approved a parcel tax in 1985 (a variable amount, \$19 – \$39) — a first in the state's history — to restore the library's lost funds. (The funds from this parcel tax are governed by the North County Library Authority (NCLA) — the little library noted how government agencies loved acronyms — made up of three local representatives: Jean Mordo and Jim Lai from Los Altos Hills and three members from Los Altos.) The little library was very pleased, its collection of books heaved a heavy sigh of relief.

More good news came to the little library when, in 1995, the Santa Clara County Library passed a parcel tax (\$33) to support all the libraries in the

county system. That tax allowed libraries to be open 52 to 55 hours a week.

The little library also benefited directly from the generosity of the local community throughout all these years. Beyond the parcel tax, residents funded their library through the Los Altos Library Endowment and the Friends of the Library. With all this community support, the little library could keep its doors open 7 days and 4 nights each week (compared to its siblings that are open 5.5 days and 2 nights a week), bringing happiness, enlightenment, and entertainment to thousands of children and grown-ups over the years.

Sadly, the NCLA parcel tax that the little library has been depending on for so long is coming to its inevitable end — it will expire in 2011. Once again, local residents have rallied to support their libraries by placing a new NCLA measure on the June 8 ballot to provide libraries \$76 per parcel for the next 20 years.

With that hopeful news, the little library smiled, reassuring all of its treasured tomes that hope was around the corner. "Remember" the little library said, "each library card is a ticket to an unknown, untraveled world. The greatest journeys have begun with the simple act of opening a book, the mere turning of a page. I promise you, in this electronic age, we serve a vital role in the life of the mind."

The books instantly perked up on their shelves, spines tilted forward ever so slightly, soldiers at attention, in anticipation of the next eager, curious hand to reach out and embark on a new journey.



Donor Tile Wall Completed

Approximately six years in the making, the serpentine donor-seating wall in front of Los Altos Hills Town Hall is now completed. The Donor Wall is the Town's first public art project.

The tile wall offered approximately 800 tiles for residents to purchase as part of a fundraiser to benefit the landscaping of the new Town Hall.

Beginning in 2004, residents could purchase and hand-paint tiles to be a part of history while making a donation to the Town.

Although Phase I of the project was a successful fundraiser, the wall remained unfinished until last summer when Karen Druker, art curator for the Town, donated funds to purchase, paint, and install the remaining tiles to complete the half-finished wall in Phase II.

Los Altos Hills children painted the approximately 400 remaining tiles at a series of painting parties at Create It Ceramics Studio in Palo Alto and at local schools, including Gardner Bullis, Bullis Charter and Pinewood schools, parochial schools, the Jewish Day School, and the Children's House preschool next-door to Gardner Bullis.

"We owe a giant thank you to Karen Druker, who donated several thousand

dollars to pay for the final tiles," stated resident Duffy Price, who managed Phase I of the project. "Karen coordinated many workshops at different schools helping the children design tiles."

Druker managed Phase II of the project. Price said the Phase I fundraiser generated more than \$132,000.

The idea for the wall came from Town Hall architects Peter Duxbury and Bill McIntosh.

"As we were short of funds for the landscaping, the tiles were thought of by Peter Duxbury as a way to finance the landscaping and also to make a lasting contribution as the first public art project," Price said.

She credited numerous residents and Town staff members, including a volunteer-driven Donor Wall Committee, for bringing the project to fruition.

Among the tiles are commemorative one paying tribute to deceased residents Sgt. William Mason Sigua (Iraq War) and Pfc. Louis Gau (Vietnam War), and LAH volunteers Ethel Blank and Dan Alexander. Colonel Lionel Nelson, M.D. is recognized for his recent contributions as a physician serving in the Iraq war.



Above: (l-r) Gardner Bullis students Ashley Warren, 1st Grade; Leah Bourgan, 5th Grade; Jessica Bourgan, 3rd Grade. Left: Kylie & Connor Akiyama.

Water Conservation Committee Proposes Simplified Ordinance to Council

Every city is required by the State of California to adopt the State's Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance, or adopt its own equally efficient ordinance by January 1, 2010. The Los Altos Hills (LAH) Water Conservation Committee (WCC) proposed to the City Council at its December 10, 2009 meeting a simpler ordinance. The Council formed an ad-hoc committee to work out the details of the proposed ordinance and sent a notification letter to the State.

The state ordinance takes as its goal the efficient use of water for landscaping, and it focuses on methods such as audits and penalties to enforce efficient use. The WCC recognizes that efficient use of water on the large lots in LAH is not enough; the LAH ordinance

needs to directly address the amount of water used. It is important to address our water use because the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, in order to mitigate an expected shortfall, plans to impose an "environmental allocation" on all its water districts with penalties imposed for exceeding the allocation.

New residences are the primary focus of the State Model Ordinance. The WCC proposes that new landscape plans be provided in sufficient detail to determine the amount of water used each year, and an estimated cost of that water. Additionally, each new residence would calculate a maximum landscape

"water budget" based on the amount of land that supports irrigated landscaping. The water use formulas from the State ordinances would then be used as a basis to compute a maximum water budget for the parcel. Exceeding the budget amount would result in a higher price for water.

The WCC presented data showing that water use based directly on the State formulas would greatly exceed the guaranteed water allocation to LAH. Part of the WCC proposal was the reduction of water use by applying a factor to the State formula to reduce water use to what is available. The proposed ordinance will be discussed at public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Council in the next several months.



SmartMeters A Smarter Way to Measure and Monitor Energy Usage

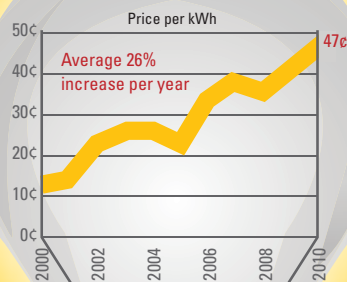
Los Altos Hills residents will soon have direct access to hour-by-hour PG&E household energy usage reports. By year's end, homeowners and vigilant dogs alike will say goodbye to flesh-and-bone meter readers and the analog devices they've been sneaking up to since the Kennedy administration. The new wireless, two-way SmartMeters will help PG&E identify and correct power outages, often without leaving the plant, and are a critical first step in rolling out the nation's smart-grid effort.

Instant Gridfication

The meter change-out happens in less than 15 minutes and at no charge to residents. Within two weeks, homeowners will have immediate access to their energy story via the PG&E website, and will be capable of tracking usage changes whether home alone, entertaining, or away on vacation. And, since the CPUC adopted five-tiered pricing — kicking homeowners up to progressively higher pricing levels with higher usage — SmartMeters should be a welcome way to monitor use and stay shy of those pricey tiers. In 10 years, those rates have surged an average of twenty-six percent per

year, from thirteen cents per kilowatt-hour to forty-seven cents today. In recent history, PG&E bills have doubled in the Los Altos Hills. This is due partially to across-the-board energy price hikes, and to the density of large residential consumers in the Hills who, because of rules protecting low-income consumers, disproportionately absorb increases.

TOP-TIER PG&E ELECTRIC RATES



Mega-Watt Results with Minimal Effort

Research says simple awareness leads to energy conservation. With access to consumption data, consumers will see the difference between mid- and top-tier pricing is often just a few painless energy-saving behaviors away. The Environmental Initiatives Committee (EIC) is also helping residents see the benefits of making simple changes. At the first "Residential Energy Efficiency" forum in December, homeowners learned that attaching a timer to a hot water recirculation pump could save \$600 per year. (More tips at www.LAHGreen.org.) In the coming months, a "High Energy Assessment" program will be offered free to residents with large PG&E bills. For more information, email lah.eic@gmail.com.

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE

FLOW  W

Town residents face particular challenges in being responsible users of limited water resources because of large lots and historically robust, lush landscaping. Foothill College will be hosting a day-long conference, on April 24, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, to present ways to maximize the efficiency of water use in your landscape.

The conference provides for classroom and hands-on experience with environmental industry professionals through lectures, demonstrations, and workshops. Featured speakers include Owen Dell, author of *Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies*, and Frank Niccoli and Dan Svenson of the Foothill College Horticulture Department.

If you are looking to be a more responsible residential water user and cut your water bill while maintaining that beautiful garden, then this conference is for you. Space is limited, so plan to register early. Registration is \$45 by April 1; \$55 thereafter. A box lunch is included with your registration fee. Register online at www.communityeducation.fhda.edu, or call 408-864-8817.

BRUSH & YARD TRIMMING COLLECTION

Los Altos Hills refuse collector GreenWaste Recovery has announced its 2010 brush and yard trimming collection schedule. Collection events are held the third Saturday of every month in Foothill Community College Campus parking lots 2 & 3, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. For more information call GreenWaste customer service at 650-644-4994 or visit www.greenwaste.com to access a 2010 collection schedule.

Brush and Yard Trimmings
2010 Collection Schedule

9:00 am – 2:00 pm	
March 20	August 21
April 17	Sept. 18
May 15	Oct. 16
June 19	Nov. 20
July 17	Dec. 18

FREE
COMPOST

Compost is available to Los Altos Hills residents year-round at Elena Road and Purissima Road. Please bring your own materials to transport the compost. If you notice compost is running low, please contact Los Altos Hills Town Hall at 650-941-7222 to have GreenWaste supply additional compost.

ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN AT GARDNER BULLIS SCHOOL

At their meeting on January 25th, the Los Altos School District (LASD) approved an all-day kindergarten (ADK) program (8:30 am – 2:30 pm) at Gardner Bullis School (GBS) beginning in the fall of 2010. Enrollment is expected to be available for 50 students.

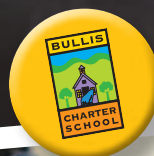
ADK will be open to students throughout the district. Enrollment priority will go to Los Altos and Los Altos Hills students residing in the GBS attendance area. Due to the agreement between LASD and the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), LAH students residing within PAUSD will be given equal enrollment priority for the ADK program, as well as long-term inter-district transfers to attend GBS for elementary school.

For further information or to inquire about enrollment availability, please contact GBS at 650- 559-3200 or the LASD office at 650-947-1150 or visit www.losaltos.k12.ca.us.



GBS Sixth Grade Class Sends Holiday Cheer to Troops Overseas

Gardner Bullis' inaugural sixth grade class led an all-school effort in early December to compile and deliver care packages for the holidays to the men and women in the military stationed in Afghanistan. The sixth grade students gathered much needed necessities (such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, razors, books, movies, etc.) and packed over 50 boxes of supplies that were shipped overseas in time for the holidays. Students in every grade wrote a personal holiday note, which was included with each of the packages as coming from Gardner Bullis School in Los Altos Hills.



BCS BAKE SALE FOR HAITI

Kindergarten students at Bullis Charter School (BCS) hosted a bake and fruit sale on Friday, February 5th to raise money for the Red Cross Haitian Relief Efforts. "This was a wonderful way for our kindergarten students to help with such an important cause," stated Superintendent/Principal Wanny Hersey.

Summing up the effort of BCS students, Hersey stated, "Community service is an important strand in the BCS curricula. Throughout the year, students in all grades participate in a variety of outreach projects in order to make a positive difference. My thanks to the BCS students, staff, and parents who have made it a priority to reach out to the community and beyond."

BCS Fourth Graders Make Blankets for Pathways Hospice

In lieu of their year-end holiday party the students in Ms. Saunder's fourth grade class at BCS chose to create something for those in need. They used their time making blankets for children at Pathways Hospice. Pathways Hospice helps 700 families every day and turns no patient away because they cannot afford services. In addition to the blankets, BCS students donated baby clothes for the children and families at the hospice.

MATAPALO SCHOOL – COSTA RICA

While BCS service initiatives teach students about the needs within local communities, the "Adopt a Costa Rican Class" is a project that encourages students to think beyond their borders, to BCS's sister school in Costa Rica.

The BCS Student Council organized a school-wide fund-raiser to assist its sister school. The goal was for each BCS classroom to adopt a classroom at the Matapalo School to donate needed materials.

"Our sister school does not even have enough room to house all its students at the same time. The primary grades attend in the mornings and the upper grades in the afternoons. They have minimal educational supplies and no recreation equipment at all. Their classroom and library shelves are literally empty," explained Wanny Hersey.

CARING *for* THE OAK TREE

Plan to join in this year's Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz, at Town Hall on May 15, from 10:30 am – Noon, to find out if trees in your neighborhood are infected and what can be done to protect your oaks. This free event starts with a Saturday training session, led by U.C. Berkeley SOD researcher, Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, to teach residents to recognize signs of SOD on Bay Laurel trees, which can harbor the disease. Residents will then collect leaf samples and return them to Town Hall by Sunday evening. The leaves will be tested at Berkeley and added to the map of SOD in the Town.

For more information call 650-815-8286 or visit the web site: www.matteolab.org.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH PREVENTIVE TREATMENT CALENDAR

February to March

- Apply optional preventive phosphonate treatment to oaks (especially after first year's treatment in fall)
- Apply fresh, fine, commercial-grade compost around oak trunks to reduce "splash" infection of the trunk

April to May

- Attend LAH 2010 SOD Blitz, Saturday, May 15, 10:30 am, at Town Hall

Summer

- If pruning oaks is necessary, do it at least four months prior to start of the rainy season to allow time for bark to heal
- Dry season is the best time to remove Bay trees from SOD-infected areas. Chip or cut into small pieces and spread thinly to dry in the area where the tree stood.

November to December

- Apply preventive phosphonate treatment to oaks (e.g., AgriFos) via bark application or injection
- If injections are used, alternate them with bark application every other year

December to January

- Wet season when SOD pathogen is naturally active and spreading
- Avoid disturbing soil in infected areas
- Avoid pruning trees or wounding bark
- Avoid moving soil and plant debris from infected to uninfected areas

Note: Timing is approximate and can vary with temperature and weather conditions
For more information visit the Open Space Committee page at www.hills2000.org



TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

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Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the Town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is April 15, 2010.**

Printed with soy-based inks. International Paper, the manufacturer of the paper, has earned Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forestry Stewardship Council dual certification.

www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

The Town newsletter is published with assistance from the Town Volunteer Committees.

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Los Altos Hills City Council

Dean Warshawsky, Mayor

Breene Kerr, Vice Mayor

Rich Larsen

Jean Mordo

Ginger Summit

CALENDAR

March 14

Sunday, 9:30 am
Pathway Walk

Nick Dunkel will lead a Pathway Walk. The walk will begin at the end of Stirrup Way, take about an hour, and cover a little over two miles. For more information contact Town Hall.



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Sunday, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Art Show Opening & Reception

Town Hall
Artists Pat Sherwood and Neil Boor display abstract

art forms. For more information call Town Hall at 650-941-7222 or Karen Druker, curator, at 650-941-8073.

April 10

Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Hoppin' Hounds Easter Biscuit Hunt

Byrne Preserve
This on-leash event benefits Palo Alto Animal Services shelter. \$5 donation requested. Sponsored by Five Paw Bakery of Los Altos. For more information visit www.fivepaw.com.



10

Saturday, 9:00 am – noon
California Natives and Sustainability Seminar

Town Hall
Free Water Efficient Landscaping Class. Sponsored by BAWSCA, Purissima Hills Water District & LAH Water Conservation Committee. RSVP: 650-349-3000. For more information call Alexis Shields, 650-948-1217.

18

Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Earth Day Celebration and Westwind Barn Grand Reopening

Featuring wild animals presented by Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund. Wine tasting; Demonstrations. Info: 650-941-4808



May 3

Monday
Golf Tournament
Inaugural LAH Parks and Recreation Golf Tournament at Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club. \$225 entry fee supports the Parks and Recreation Dept. Info. & Register: echristensen@losaltoshills.ca.gov or 650-941-7222.

12

Wed., 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Turf Alternatives
Town Hall
Free Water Efficient Landscaping Class; Sponsor BAWSCA, Purissima

Hills Water District & LAH Water Conservation Committee. RSVP: 650-349-3000. To learn more call Alexis Shields, 650-948-1217.

June 6

Sun., 1:00 – 4:30 pm
13th Annual Town Picnic
Purissima Park
Open to all residents of Los Altos Hills. Residents must make reservations to attend. Look for a flier mailed out in May with more information.



Calendar events are also posted on Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov